

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

A Wide-ranging Council Session Tackles Bikes, Bays, Beer and Bags

by Kathleen Gallagher

At its February 8 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council confronted a long agenda that took until nearly 12:30 a.m. to complete. One item that took considerable time was a further consideration of a revised Detailed Site Plan for the Phase III residential development at the Greenbelt Station South Core, which is covered in a separate article. Also covered separately is a decision by the Greenbelt City Council on a pending state bill to restore the land use authority of the Prince George's County District Council.

In addition to a report on the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) and a request from a resident to improve lighting along Route 193 in Greenbelt, other topics on the agenda included a decision on how to finance the purchase of 10-A Crescent Road; dredging of the Greenbelt Lake forebays, a new contract for red light cameras, a liquor license application and a continuation of review of proposed state legislation.

Bikes and Trails

Aaron Marcavitch, executive director of ATHA made his annual presentation on the many activities of the organization, of which the city is a member. He stressed that ATHA's ongoing priority is still "bikes and trails,

bikes and trails, bikes and trails." He announced that the trail into Washington, D.C. should be completed by October of this year, adding they are planning to name 2017 the Year of the Bike and orient many of their activities around that theme next year.

Marcavitch also spoke about a new development project, the Heritage Center Fund, that will include establishing a permanent home for ATHA in the new Pyramid Atlantic Art Center to be built in Hyattsville. This location will serve as a welcome center and exhibit space, as well as office space for ATHA. They are asking member municipalities to contribute \$1,000 from their Fiscal Year 2017 budgets, if possible, to support this transition for ATHA.

ATHA's grant period is also open at this time and Marcavitch mentioned that they have received notices of intent to apply from both the Greenbelt Museum and the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Lighting on 193

Under the Petitions and Requests section of the meeting, resident Bill Norwood made a request for improved lighting along Greenbelt Road. Noting several specific areas that are particularly dark at night, he suggested that this problem is

one factor that discourages easy interaction among the three sections of Greenbelt, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists for whom it is a safety issue. Mayor Emmett Jordan responded that because Greenbelt Road is a state highway, the city cannot directly remedy the problem but council can raise the issue with the State Highway Administration next time they hold a worksession.

10-A Crescent Road

At its January 28 meeting the city council adopted an ordinance to authorize the purchase of the membership for 10-A Crescent Road, the other half of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) duplex that houses the Greenbelt Museum. Following brief discussion at that meeting on the pros and cons of financing the \$200,000 purchase versus paying cash with available city funds, the decision was postponed until the February 8 meeting when all the relevant cost information could be presented by staff.

The issue was whether to borrow the money and keep most of the principal free for funding some of the city's many unfunded capital projects or whether to save the cost of borrowing the money. There was eventual agree-

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

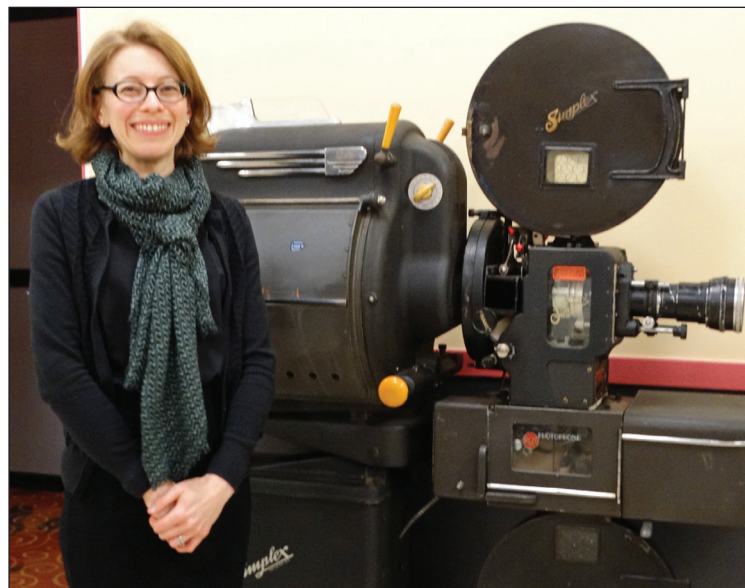


PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

Caitlin McGrath stands with the historic 35mm projector at the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Caitlin McGrath Honored As Part of Forty Under 40

by Kyla Hanington

For the fifth year in a row, a Greenbelter has been named by the Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund as one of its Forty Under 40. The stated aim of the Forty Under 40 program is "to highlight the brilliant young talent that lives in Prince George's County and then connect them more deliberately to locally focused civic engagement opportunities." Greenbelt has been well-represented by active community members.

The inaugural year of the award, 2012, saw Aaron Marcavitch honored for his impact in business. Lauren Schrieber was recognized in 2013 for her contributions to arts and humanities, as

was Angella Foster the following year. The 2015 awards honored local chiropractor Rashida Cohen for her work in health and fitness. This year sees a Greenbelter again recognized in the field of arts and humanities, as Caitlin McGrath was acknowledged for her work with the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

"It was exciting!" said McGrath of the honor. "It was nice to be recognized; we work hard every day to make this historic place (the theater) wonderful."

McGrath moved to Greenbelt in 2011 as she and her husband, Oliver Gaycken, had jobs at the University of Maryland teaching

See **McGRATH**, page 7

Greenbelt Station

Developers and City Discuss Differences on Newest DSP

by Diane Oberg

At its February 22 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council is expected to take final action on the Detailed Site Plan (DSP) for the Greenbelt Station South Core Phase 3 development. Under the city's development agreement with Woodlawn Development Group, city and county approval of the DSP is required before the plan can move forward. There are several unresolved issues, including lot size,

green space and the composition of the noise barrier, upon which council must reach a decision.

The county Planning Board will hold a hearing on the DSP on March 10, so the city must provide its comments in time to be incorporated into the county Park and Planning staff's technical report due February 25.

At a worksession on November 16 council and the developer reviewed the prior DSP. City staff then recommended that council oppose that plan based on their concerns regarding the levels of density and open space in the projects. The developer withdrew that plan prior to the city taking action and generated this new concept plan and DSP.

Revised Plan

The new plan calls for placing 165 townhouse units on the site, up from 163 in the November 2015 plan. Of these, 69 are 16 feet wide, 50 are 20 feet wide and 45 are 24 feet wide. All are four-story units with an optional roof-top deck. Three pocket parks have been created in response

See **STATION**, page 13

What Goes On

Monday, February 22
8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, February 23
7 p.m., Advisory Committee on Education, Municipal Building
7:30 p.m., GreenACES and Green Team, Community Center

Wednesday, February 24
7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board, Community Center
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Community Center

9 p.m., Council Worksession continues, Review Theater Operations, Community Center
Thursday, February 25
7 p.m., Forest Preserve Board Meeting

Saturday, February 27
10 a.m. to Noon, Rain Garden Workshop

Sunday, February 28
2 to 4 p.m., Children, Animals Safety Workshop, Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse (See city ad for details.)



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

A downy woodpecker perches on rebar.

Editorial

One Hand Clapping?

“Nobody reads the News Review.” Thus publicly stated a councilmember recently based on feedback while canvassing door to door. If nobody reads the paper, why did candidates buy enough advertising to double the paper’s normal length prior to the recent election?

Recently, we received some relevant data from the city’s February 6 electronics recycling event. Coordinator Luisa Robles asks new participants how they learned of the program. She reports, that “236 individuals stopped by. Of the [60] people new to the event, 31 heard of it through the News Review, 8 through the city’s web page, 5 via Greenbelters Yahoo group, 5 word of mouth, 3 through Facebook Greenbelters, 2 people called PW, 6 received emails through their HOAs, and 1 from a flyer.” Projecting to include the entire attendance, approximately 120 attendees had read about the event in the paper. This is the tip of the readership iceberg because only a small fraction of those reading the paper would be contemplating recycling. It’s by no means Everybody – but it definitely isn’t Nobody.

The same pattern has been repeated since Public Works started tracking this statistic in 2014. Robles’ numbers show that in each quarter’s electronic recycling, approximately 50 percent of new attendees found out about it in the paper.

It is 2016 and some of us are Tweeting and Facebooking like mad but the newspaper in its print and electronic formats is still a primary, efficient and effective means of communication with Greenbelt’s citizens. We don’t expect people to read every word of every issue – enough already – but it’s the most effective available resource for integrated information on local businesses, municipal activities and city-wide topics. The News Review is the only one-stop shop for living an informed and involved life in Greenbelt, and opening the paper to Page 3 (Community Events) is way faster than booting up a PC. Citizens who want to stay informed about governance can either go to council meetings and worksessions themselves or read the News Review in print or online. No prizes for guessing which is more efficient.

If it weren’t for this newspaper, there’d be no spotlight on council activities or developer incursions. Citizens wouldn’t know to rise up and defend their woods, put on their glad rags, glue things together at Artful Afternoon or write fulminating letters to the editor. We’d not even know who died.

We hope council will elect itself as an emissary for the paper. Recruit for it, refer to it lovingly, solicit advertisers for it, embrace it. But it is not even remotely true that we are the paper “Nobody reads.”

Both hands are applauding vigorously and we took color photographs of the tree falling in the forest. So listen up, look out!

Letters to the Editor

Thanks

The Mangum family would like to express our sincere appreciation to Greenbelt’s Public Works and Recreation Departments during our family’s memorial service for Terry “Coach” Mangum on February 15, 2016. Gratitude to the Public Works Department, directed by Jim Sterling and his snow removal crew, as well as the Recreation department, guided by Greg Varda and his staff employees, A.J. and Ebony, for their diligent and heartfelt assistance in making the memorial service successful. Also, thanks so much to everyone who came to show love to the family, who contributed cookies and helped us remember Terry.

With a thankful heart,
The Mangum Family

System-wide Closures

This letter is in response to “Keep Library Open,” February 4 issue. In regard to keeping the Greenbelt Library open on inclement days, it is a no brainer that it is closed. The Greenbelt Library is part of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System; it is not just a Greenbelt library. Just like the schools in Greenbelt are a part of the Prince George’s County Public School system. When there is inclement weather, the entire Prince George’s systems are closed, not just individual places.

When meteorologists and news people suggest everyone should stay off the roads until they can

be plowed, that’s what they mean so no one will get hurt. If you know a storm is coming, you should go to the library ahead of time and check out some books or movies. If a storm comes up unexpectedly, you should browse your home for books, magazines, etc. to read or find other things to do. Whatever you are doing in the library, you can do in your own home.

Enjoy and use the library when it is scheduled to be open.
Gail Phillips

Greenbelt vs Greenhills

Many thanks to Lesley Kash for her instructive and thought-provoking article regarding the differences between the evolution of the garden cities, Greenbelt and Greenhills, Ohio. Those of us who live in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) can thank the dedicated members of the GHI Board of Directors from the 1970’s and early 1980’s for their hard

See LETTERS, page 6

Correction

The story in last week’s issue on Metrobus service in Greenbelt failed to identify the spokesperson from Metro who met with the Greenbelt City Council at a February 3 worksession. She was Julia Hershen, a planner for bus service. Also attending for Metro was Ginger Murphy, transit director for Prince George’s County.



Cartoon by Shayna Skolnik

On Screen

Iconic Bag Lady... Exasperating

The Lady in the Van starring Maggie Smith is coming to the Old Greenbelt Theatre on Friday, February 19.

Readers of a certain age may remember her tour de force Oscar-winning performance in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie in 1968. No longer in her prime (or maybe still at age 81), Dame Maggie has evolved from the fiery, charismatic Jean Brodie into a beloved icon.

She has enchanted us as Professor McGonagall in the Harry Potter movies; as an aging, vulnerable widow in the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel movies; and as the imperious Dowager Countess in the Downton Abbey series. And now she plays an exquisitely complicated bag lady who squats in her van in the driveway of Alan Bennett – for 15 years.

She is rude, condescending, exasperating and distinctly unhygienic. She is also damaged and fearful. Like Bartleby the Scrivener, she is a deep puzzlement, a disturbing mystery. How should we treat the odd ducks, the misfits who crash uninvited into our lives?

PG13. Running time: 104 minutes

- Jim Link

Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Adults \$9
Senior/Student \$8, Kids \$6
Members receive a \$1 discount on all shows after 5:00 PM
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES
Feb 19 – Feb 25

THE LADY IN THE VAN
(PG-13) (CC) (105 m.)
Fri. 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 12:30 PM (OC), 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Tues. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Wed. 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM

Family Series:
THE WIZARD OF OZ
(G) (112 m.)
Sat. 11:00 AM

Greenbelt News Review

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Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

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Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Deanna Dawson and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads—8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Community Events

GHI Notes

Thursday, February 18, 2:30 p.m., Parking Sub-Committee Meeting, Board Room;
7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room
Monday, February 22, 7 p.m., Pre Purchase Orientation, Board Room
Wednesday, February 24, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting, Board Room
Friday, February 26, office closed. For emergency maintenance service call 301-474-6011.
Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting, Board Room

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of February 22 are as follows:

Monday, February 22: Apple juice, baked chicken with apricot-mustard sauce, mashed spiced yams, broccoli, wheat bread, sliced peaches.

Tuesday, February 23: Orange juice, veal parmesan with marinara sauce, garlic rotini, spinach, Italian bread, cherry fruited gelatin dessert.

Wednesday, February 24: Cranberry juice, BBQ pork riblet, baked beans, collard greens, cornbread, tropical fruit.

Thursday, February 25: Grape juice, potato soup with crackers, fish sandwich, mixed green salad with French dressing, fresh fruit.

Friday, February 26: Pineapple juice, baked tilapia with Old Bay cream sauce, au gratin potatoes, asparagus, wheat roll, fresh fruit.

WAGS Sponsors Child Animal Safety Event

W.A.G.S. (Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter) is holding a free Children and Animals Safety Workshop on Sunday, February 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Schrom Hills Community Park Clubhouse. The purpose of the workshop is to educate children and their parents about companion animals (dogs and cats) in general with particular emphasis on identifying an animal's stress signals, how to approach unfamiliar animals, what to do if approached by an unfamiliar dog off leash and how to supervise and monitor children and dogs to avoid dog bites.

There will also be an opportunity to meet a Greenbelt animal control officer and learn about the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. The workshop is made possible by the Jim Cassels Community Service Award and in partnership with Your Dog's Friend (a non-profit organization with the mission of keeping dogs out of shelters by offering workshops and training) and the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter. Register children by sending an email to wagsgbas@gmail.com or calling 301-397-2212. There is no charge for the workshop.

Sunday Library Hours

The Greenbelt Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will offer Sunday hours effective March 6, 2016. The new hours will offset the impact of the New Carrollton Branch's closure for renovations for approximately 18 months.

The New Carrollton Branch was one of seven branches open on Sunday within the Library System. The other branches are Fairmount Heights, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Oxon Hill, South Bowie and Spauldings. The Greenbelt Branch will be open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Events at MakerSpace

New and exciting things are brewing at MakerSpace this week.

Saturday, February 20 from 10 a.m. to noon is Robotics class, open to all ages. Participants will be doing the missions from First Lego League, but adults are welcome as well as kids. There will be advice and guidance along the way.

Sunday, February 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. is a new and free Animation Workshop taught by local artist Ola Betiku. Those interested in participating can contact ebrettell@gmail.com to sign up.

On Tuesday, February 23, First Lego League has post-season training from 6 to 7 p.m. From 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Arduinos class will introduce participants ages 12 and up to the fundamentals of Arduino programming.

Wednesday, February 24 is Knit Night, for knitters, crocheters and other fibers enthusiasts, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, February 26 is Fermentation Fan Club. The meeting takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. and centers on beer-brewing, pickling, yogurt-making and the love of all things fermented.

Kids' Open Mic At the New Deal

On Sunday, February 21, musicians, singers and all performers 17 years of age or younger are welcome to a low-key and friendly venue at which families can gather and make music. This event takes place on the third Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café.

Performers may e-mail Rebecca Holober at bbholober@comcast.net with an introduction to their act at least one day ahead of the performance date. Include a brief bio (e.g. where performer is from, title of songs presented, musical influences and fun facts about the performer). Walk-ins are also welcomed.



Weekend Events At Greenbelt Park

Saturday, February 27, Reading Ranger. Join a park ranger to learn about the life of an owl. The presentation is appropriate for ages 6 to 8. Meet at the Ranger Station classroom at 11 a.m.

Sunday, February 28, The Native American Period at Greenbelt Park. Join a park ranger to learn about the Nacotchtank Indians. Meet at the Ranger Station at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 28, Still Creek clean-up. Join the Friends of Still Creek and park volunteers to help keep the watershed clean. Meet at the Ranger Station at 12:45 p.m.

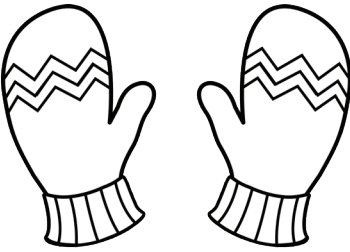
Sunday, February 28, Campfire Program: Stewardship Opportunities for the Centennial. How does one become a camp host? What is the volunteer trail crew and what does it do? To what other visitor services can volunteers contribute in 2016? Learn about the positive impact of volunteers on the park and how to join the stewardship team. Campground guests and the public are welcome to attend a traditional campfire program at the Campfire Circle at 4 p.m.

Cajun Jam

On Wednesday, February 24, Cajun Jam is at the New Deal Café, welcoming dancers, musicians and listeners who enjoy Cajun music. Beginners are welcome. Dinner and socializing run from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by jamming from 7 to 9:30 p.m. There is no charge for the musical portion of the program.

No February Meeting For Greenbelt Writers

The Greenbelt Writers Group will not meet on Friday, February 19. Last fall, the group decided to skip the coldest month. The next meeting will be on Friday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The group is working on plans for their latest anthology.



ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com
R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend
** Add \$2.00 for 3-D
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows
Most features are \$5.50 all day on Tuesdays

Week of February 19

FRIDAY – SATURDAY

How to Be Single, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
Zoolander 2, PG-13
11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7, 9:20
Deadpool, R
11, 11:40, 1:40, 2:25, 4:10, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:10, 9:45
The Witch, R
11, 1:40, 4:35, 7, 9:50
Race, PG-13
11, 1:50, 4, 6:50, 9:15
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:10, 1:40, 4, 7:10, 9:30

SUNDAY

How to Be Single, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20
Zoolander 2, PG-13
11:30, 2, 4:30, 7
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7
Deadpool, R
11, 11:40, 1:40, 2:25, 4:10, 4:45, 6:45
The Witch, R
11, 1:40, 4:35, 7
Race, PG-13
11, 1:50, 4, 6:50
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:10, 1:30, 3:50

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY

How to Be Single, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20
Zoolander 2, PG-13
11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7
Deadpool, R
11, 11:40, 1:40, 2:25, 4:10, 4:45, 6:45, 7:20
The Witch, R
11, 1:40, 4:35, 7
Race, PG-13
11, 1:50, 4, 6:50
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:20, 1:40, 4:15, 7:10

THURSDAY

The Gods of Egypt, PG-13
7
Triple 9, R
7
How to Be Single, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20
Zoolander 2, PG-13
11:30, 2, 4:30
Kung Fu Panda 3, PG
11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7
Deadpool, R
11, 11:40, 1:40, 2:25, 4:10, 4:45, 6:45, 7:20
The Witch, R
11, 1:40, 4:35, 7
Race, PG-13
11, 1:50, 4, 6:50
Ride Along 2, PG-13
11:20, 1:50, 4:15

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Explorations Unlimited

On Friday, February 19 at 1 p.m., Explorations Unlimited welcomes Helen Barnes, a retired mental health professional, who will present on the topic of aprons. She will discuss how aprons have been used to invite us to the kitchen, to the shop or other places where our parents wanted to keep their clothes a bit cleaner. This program will explore, with audience input, how aprons are remembered and how it felt to wear our first apron.

Barnes is a local gero-psychiatric nurse specialist working as a counselor, consultant and educator. She retired from the Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Aging Division after 20 years as an elder abuse mental health nurse. Before that she taught nursing for over 20 years.


Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. This presentation will be held in room 114. Everyone is welcome and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Reel and Meal Event Rescheduled Feb. 22

The Reel and Meal event originally scheduled for Monday, February 15 has been rescheduled due to bad weather. The free event features The House I Live In, Eugene Jarecki's 2012 documentary that won the U.S. documentary prize at the Sundance Film Festival and exposes the overuse of incarceration in the U.S. criminal justice system. It starts at 7 p.m.

The Reel and Meal monthly series raises awareness about environmental, social and animal rights concerns. The Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition has planned this program; for more information about it contact 301-577-2350 or justpeacepg@earthlink.net. Other local grassroots sponsors of the series are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and Green Vegan Networking. The New Deal Café is accessible from Greenbelt Metro station by buses G 12, 13, 14 and 16.



Greenbelt Arts Center
TWO WEEKS ONLY
GOD, THE ONE-MAN SHOW

Created and Performed by Rich Potter
February 19 - 28
Friday and Saturday at 8:00
Sundays at 2:00
Ticket prices: \$20 General Admission, \$16
Students/Seniors/Military, \$12 Youth (12 and under with adult)
COMING SOON
Bad Jews - March 4 - 20, 2016 - Directed by Bob Kleinberg
Enchanted April - April 8 - 30 - Directed by Pauline Griller-Mitchell
For information & reservations, call **301-441-8770** or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or **BOOK TICKETS ONLINE** at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Obituaries

Former Reporter Mavis Fletcher Dies



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

Mavis Fletcher

A former resident of Greenbelt, Betty Mavis Loeffler Fletcher, 90, died on February 7, 2016, after a brief illness at Homestead Assisted Living Center in Manhattan, Kan. She was born on a sheep ranch near Stockton, Kan., on October 28, 1925. She attended a one room country school where she was the only student in her grade, an experience which determined her life-long habit of learning.

After graduating from Stockton High School, she attended the University of Kansas, majoring in German and linguistics and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She did her graduate work at the Ohio State University where she met James Austin Fletcher. They were married on December 18, 1948, at St. James Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio.

They were both recruited by the Department of Defense and moved to the Washington, D.C. area, where they worked for almost 30 years for the National Security Agency. For most of those years they lived in Greenbelt. Both were Shakespeare enthusiasts, frequently attending productions at the Folger. After her retirement she earned an associate degree in computer science and worked as an applications programmer for the University of Maryland.

Mrs. Fletcher joined the News Review staff and served as vice president of the board during the 1980's. She was a major contributor covering city council and zoning during a time of significant development and controversy in Greenbelt. She began her decade-long stint writing the police blotter. After leaving Greenbelt, Mrs. Fletcher maintained contact with the city by reading the News Review online. She sent newsy letters at Christmastime complimenting the staff on its work.

After her husband retired they moved to the coastal town of Beaufort, S.C. where they lived until his death in 2000, after 52 years of marriage. Mrs. Fletcher then moved to Manhattan, Kan., to be near her sisters.

Mrs. Fletcher was an active member of the American Association of University Women, maintaining her membership both in Beaufort and Manhattan. She served as president and secretary of the Friends of Beaufort Community Library and served on the board of the Manhattan Library Association and the Friends of the Manhattan Library. Books, bridge, a love of gardening and the outdoors were defining features of her life.

Mrs. Fletcher was preceded in death by her husband, sisters and a niece. She is survived by her late husband's cousin, Anne Austin Jennings of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two nieces, Sherry Denton (Jeff) of Salina and Jan Converse (Curtis) of Colorado Springs, Colo.; many grandnieces and nephews as well as many friends and bridge partners.

A funeral service was held on Friday, February 12 in Manhattan with burial at the Sunrise Cemetery.

At Mrs. Fletcher's request memorial contributions may be made to the T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter, 605 Levee Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502. To send an online condolence or a gift to the family visit irvinparkview.com.

— written by Mavis Fletcher with a few minor additions by the editor.

In Memoriam

John O'Brien, 64, Dies From a Fall

by Rick Ransom



PHOTO BY RICK RANSOM

John O'Brien

Tommy Hyland and drummer Norman Moran. In later years he was part of the jam sessions at John 'Rock' McBride's that resulted in the formation of the The Good Guys, of which I was a member.

John was an originalist when covering songs, believing they should be done just like the original artist. I am more of an interpretive player, sticking to the words and basic chords but embellishing them with our own flourishes to suit our talents. I remember once he said of a particular song, "Well, do you want to do it right or do you want to keep doing it your way?" We generally found common ground whenever we played together, although John's health kept him out of The Good Guys for the most part. His penchant for remembering songs exactly was helpful in us getting words and parts organized. He had a higher singing range and was able to sing songs like Sylvia's Mother by Dr. Hook and some of the Beatles' McCartney-sung songs sweeter than I've heard any others do them.

John had a wry sense of humor based on thoughtful replies to things people around him said. He certainly could be funny with nonsense (which was the currency of living for us Greenbelt boys). Duke Perry remembers that Bill 'B' Sharp had a very expressive face and John had a very expres-

sive tone and voice, and when the two were together it was like a mini-show watching and listening to them. You could say John's take on things came from a different perspective, for sure. John's brother Joe said he just loved living in Greenbelt, which is why he never lived anywhere else. I think he knew there was a time to be serious, but even in that time you could always lighten things up with a little laugh and a little music. These are the hallmarks of the Greenbelt kids and John was quite proud to be one.

There will be a memorial service for John at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 29 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Greenbelt Road with a reception following.



We were saddened to learn of the death of Mavis Fletcher on February 7, 2016. She was a long time Greenbelt resident and staff member of the News Review.

Our sympathies to family and friends of Shaun Michael Johnston who died February 8, 2016, aged 26. Shaun's grandmother is Sarah Johnston of Greenbelt.

John O'Brien, 64, who lived in Greenbelt since he moved here as a toddler, died February 1, 2016, after a fall. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Share your accomplishments, milestones or news for the next Our Neighbors column. To send information for Our Neighbors, email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or leave a message at 202-957-3072.

Karen Yoho

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church



40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Guidance Patience Faith

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322
Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



Feb 21 10 a.m.

Stand By This Faith - Commitment Sunday

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir.

Our Universalist foremother Olympia Brown told us,
There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith.

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff, Pastor



GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH



Come worship God with us!
Sunday School 9:45AM
Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM, except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist



Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Upcoming Events
At the New Deal

Thursday, February 18, Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic hosted by Joe Harris from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, February 19, John Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Raquy Danziger and Dum offer up a 4-piece Turkish Rhythm Celebration. Dragon-Song will open for internationally renowned Raquy from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Reservations recommended.

Saturday, February 20, Bruce Kritt plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Rolling Stones tribute band Just Stones will rock the Café from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 21, Deaf Brunch from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Kid's Open Mic from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Fez Tones Hafla bring Middle Eastern music and belly dance to the Café from 6 to 8 p.m.

Monday, February 22, Reel and Meal (re-scheduled from February 15) from 7 to 9 p.m., with a vegan buffet offered from 6:30 p.m. The New Deal Café board of directors meeting will be held at the Co-op Supermarket, upstairs in the meeting room from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Members and visitors welcome.

Tuesday, February 23, The New Deal Laugh-in hosted by CLaw Comedy Productions from 7 to 9 p.m. Mature audience only.

Wednesday, February 24, the monthly Cajun Music Jam from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring an instrument and join the fun.

Thursday, February 25, Mid-Day Melodies from noon to 2 p.m. SAW Open Mic hosted by Lynn Hollyfield from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, February 26, Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Sidleys bring their melodic and soul-influenced indie-rock from venues like The Kennedy Center and Blues Alley from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 27, Jazz Jam with Greg Meyer from 1 to 5 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The 5-1-2 Experience offer up tantalizing R&B and Neo-Soul from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed



Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111



City Information


GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING
Municipal Building, February 22, 2016 – 8:00 p.m.

- ORGANIZATION**
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions
- COMMUNICATIONS**
- Presentations
- Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)
- * Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- *Committee Reports
 - Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Report #2016-1 (Trail Condition and Maintenance – North Preserve)
 - Greenbelt Auto & Truck – Modification to Non-Conforming Certification

- LEGISLATION**
- An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the General Fund in the Amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Known as 10-A Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland - 2nd Reading, Adoption

- OTHER BUSINESS**
- ATHA Bike Infrastructure Memorandum of Understanding
- Proposed WMATA Changes to Greenbelt Metro Station Facilities
- Greenbelt Station South Core – Phase 3 Detailed Site Plan
- State Legislation
- Council Reports
* - Renewal of County Liquor Licenses
* - Reappointment to Advisory Group
* - Appointment to Advisory Group

MEETINGS
NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.



WELCOME TO THE FOUR CITIES

Come to the premiere of a new video highlighting the many positive attributes of living and working within the Berwyn Heights, College Park, Greenbelt and New Carrollton area

Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 am
Old Greenbelt Theatre at 119 Centerway
Admission is free!

Rain Garden Workshop Series

Rain Garden: February 27 from 10am-12pm
Greenbelt Public Works Office at 555 Crescent Road
Take a tour of local rain gardens, view displays and talk with local landscapers.
Additional workshop: Rain Garden Clinic on March 19th
Please join us for these FREE workshops
Door prizes and refreshments will be offered! To register <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084eaaa72eaaff2-rain>

Sponsored by the City of Greenbelt, Prince George's County Department of the Environment, CCRIC, Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, and Friends of Still Creek.

VISIT OUR ADOPTABLE PETS
Greenbelt Animal Shelter
550-A Crescent Road
301-474-6124
Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm



Blue is a extra large male adult Cane Corso Mastiff who is house trained, Spayed/Neutered and Current on vaccinations. Blue prefers a home without: Dogs and Young Children visit Blue and all his friends at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
See pets at
www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter

MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22-26

- Monday, February 22 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.*
- Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.
- Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30pm, **GREEN ACES AND GREEN TEAM** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.
- Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the agenda: Discussion with Hyattsville Community Development Corporation about Economic Development.*
- Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Beltsville Agricultural Research Center** Followed by **COUNCIL WORK SESSION at 9:00pm** **re: Review of Theater Operations.** Both meetings at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.
- Thursday, February 25 at 7pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Rm 103. *On the agenda: Schedule FPAB trash pick-ups; Discussion of signage in other FP locations; Discussion of Subcommittee E Project: FPAB info on the City Website; Approval of By Law Changes; and Board elections*

Thursday, February 25 at 7:30pm **FOUR CITIES MEETING** (College Park)

The schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT
GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2016

THE **SCHOOL FOR SUPER-HEROES**
presents

ORLANDO FURIOSO
THE MUSICAL

Forty upbeat teenagers with offbeat powers perform the most ambitious high school musical in history – and save the world!

Book, Music, Lyrics and Direction by
Christopher Cherry
Saturday, March 5 at 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 pm
Saturday, March 12 at 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRESCENT ROAD
TICKETS: \$5 CALL 301-397-2208

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee (adult member).
For information call 301-474-8000.

Children & Animals Safety Workshop

Sunday, February 28, 2016, 2:00-4:00 PM

Schrom Hills Community Park Clubhouse
6915 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770



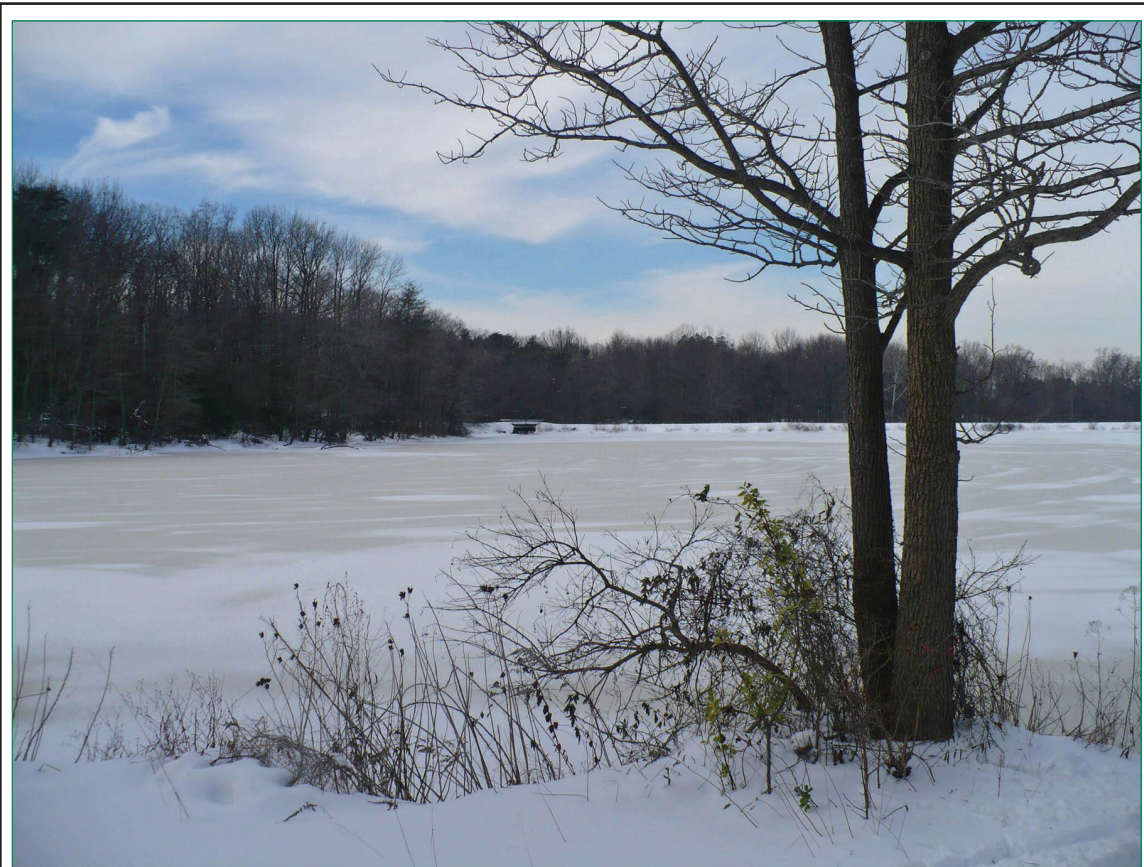
FREE workshop for children 5 –10
Children will learn from Greenbelt Animal Control officer & dog trainers

- Safe interaction with companion animals (dogs and cats)
- Behavior & distress signals
- When NOT to approach a dog or cat

Call (301) 397-2212 or email wagsbas@gmail.com to register

Funded by the Jim Cassels Community Service Award and sponsored by:





Greenbelt Lake is frozen during the snowstorm.

PHOTO BY MARJORIE GRAY

Co-op Supermarket Introduces Its New Produce Manager

The Co-op supermarket is introducing its patrons to its new produce manager, Darrel Joppy, who began working at the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy on February 1. Darrel is new to the Co-op, but he is not new to managing produce departments. He joins the Co-op after six years of managing a similar department at one of the national chains. While it was a safe job, it lacked the autonomy and responsiveness that a small, single store produce department can offer an experienced produce manager.

When Joppy says, “I am dedicated and passionate about my craft,” one might think he’s talking about his love and avocation of photography, but in fact he’s speaking about the complex world of produce. His eyes light up with enthusiasm when he talks about resetting a particular display, filling in gaps on shelves and better highlighting new products. He says that he is committed to modernizing the produce department to better serve customers, support local farms and minimize waste. Over the next few weeks, customers will increasingly see Joppy’s mark on the shelves.

Shoppers are encouraged to stop by and make a point of introducing themselves to this newest member of their Co-op team.

Joppy currently lives in Northeast Washington, and is the father of three.



Darrel Joppy is the new produce manager at the Greenbelt Co-op.

PHOTO BY JOE GARERI

UMD Hosts Free Bach Cantata

The Grand Pavilion of The Clarice will be the site of a performance of a Bach cantata on Thursday, February 25 at 1:30 p.m. A free UMD Choral Activities favorite, the Bach Cantata Series explores more than 200 extant cantatas through informal performances led by graduate choral conducting students.



GCPA Sessions Begin April 8, Run 8 Weeks

by George Mathews

The Greenbelt Citizens’ Police Academy (GCPA) is a free 8-week program designed to increase communication and understanding between members of the Greenbelt community and the Greenbelt Police Department. It is an excellent opportunity for individuals living, working or attending school in Greenbelt to gain a better understanding of how your law enforcement agency works. The GCPA combines classroom and hands on instruction on a wide variety of police functions.

The GCPA will be held on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m., beginning on April 5. Interested persons meeting the following criteria are encouraged to apply for admission.

- Be at least 18 years of age on the day of the first class
- Live, work or attend school in Greenbelt
- Have no prior felony or misdemeanor convictions for offenses involving weapons or violence
- Have no misdemeanor arrest within one year prior to the first class of the GCPA



Application Procedures

GCPA candidates should inquire about applications by contacting George Mathews at 240-542-2116 or gmathews@greenbeltmd.gov. The entire application must be returned to the Greenbelt Police Department by mail or in person. Candidates will be contacted and advised of their status of their application.

Class Size, Attendance

Class size is limited to no more than 20 students. Classes will be filled on a first-come first-served basis from the pool of qualified candidates.

GCPA students are expected to attend every class absent emergency circumstances. If a student must miss a class, every attempt will be made to offer a make-up class.

Graduation Requirements

The GCPA has established the following minimum standards for graduation:

- No more than one absence
- Active participation in all classes
- Conduct in a manner in keeping with the achievement of those goals

Letters continued

work and vision, which kept GHI homes well-maintained and affordable. Without the improvements and replacements made on GHI homes at that time, our homes might have deteriorated

as the homes in Greenhills did. A belated thank you to all of you who kept Greenbelt a great place to live.

Lola Skolnik

Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, Feb. 21st & Wednesday, Feb. 24th
Beginning at 8 PM

“Yokes & Chains (2006)” and
“Black Soldiers in Blue”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Free and Open to the Public
GATe’s Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, March 13th from 3 – 5PM
Mark your calendars!

Members Only

Canon Camera Class - \$\$
Saturday, February 20, 10-4PM
Reserve a seat at greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

Do you have a video project that will serve or promote the Greenbelt Community?

Apply for the

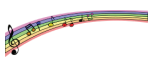
Thomas X. White Memorial Scholarship!!

The winning recipient will receive a 2016 membership, training for the Canon cameras and Adobe Premiere Pro or Final Cut Pro X non-linear editing software training.

GATe is now accepting applications through Mon, Feb. 29th

Guidelines are on the GATe website. The scholarship is open to all Greenbelt residents and Greenbelt organizations.

A GREAT WEEKEND OF MUSIC



AT THE NEW DEAL CAFE

Friday, February 26

the unique high-energy, melodic and soulful indie rock of THE SIDLEYS
8:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 27

tantalizing R&B and Neo-Soul – Old and New with THE 5-1-2 EXPERIENCE
8:30 -11:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 28
an evening of bluegrass and country classics featuring THE PETRIFIED PICKERS
5:00-8:00 p.m.



**113 CENTERWAY
GREENBELT, MD
301.474.5642
NEWDEALCAFE.COM**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE
RECOMMENDED ON THE WEEKENDS**

At the Library

Wednesday, February 24, Preschool Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people.

Thursday, February 25, Baby Storytime, 10:15 a.m., for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; Toddler Storytime, 4:15 p.m., for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people.

Encourage children to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library’s storytimes. Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event.

Teen Writers Club

Monday, February 22, 6:30 p.m., Teens (13 to 18 years old). Meet other teens who share an interest in writing. Learn tips to improve writing, try new approaches and meet authors and other experts in the publishing field.

African History & Culture

Tuesday, February 23, 7 p.m. African-American Teens in the Civil Rights Movement will be the next session of the Winter 2016 season in this audio-visual lecture series presented by historian C.R. Gibbs.

Financial Literacy

Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m. The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System Foundation invites you to begin 2016 wiser about your financial life. Financial Literacy Fundamentals is a free workshop presented in collaboration with SunTrust Bank.



Wine, Beer and Tofu Star in Co-op Tastings

The Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket & Pharmacy offers the following events during the remainder of February.

Friday, February 19 will be a wine tasting from 4 to 7 p.m. which will include some new additions to the ever-expanding wine selection. As always, the Co-op will offer \$1 off all tasting wines.

On Saturday, February 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the store will present free samples of Hodo Soy products, including two flavors of tofu nuggets and tofu burgers. Hodo Soy features hand-crafted tofu made from organic, non-GMO, U.S.-grown whole soybeans in their selection of ready to use and eat products.

February 20 also marks the start of Girl Scout Cookie booth sales on weekends at the Co-op.

Wednesday, February 24 is Patron Appreciation Day with a five percent discount for all shoppers all day long. In addition, from 4 to 7 p.m., there will be a beer tasting featuring local beer (with the customary \$1 off tasting six-packs) and highlights from the produce department’s Sensational Citrus promotion.

Friday, February 26 features a wine tasting from 4 to 7 p.m. featuring the Opici family of wine merchants. Join a local wine expert and a representative from Opici Family Distributing to sample some of their unique wines.



Free Jubilee Voices Concert Saturday

The Jubilee Voices will give a free concert on Saturday, February 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 14515 Church Street in Upper Marlboro.

The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble is committed to the preservation of African-American history and traditions – presenting songs and stories of struggle and perseverance, trials and triumphs, as expressed through a cappella music and poetry. The program is sponsored by Darnall’s Chance House Museum. Capacity is limited; call 301-952-8010 (TTY 301-699-2544) for reservations.

McGRATH continued from page 1

film studies. As film scholars, they got involved discussing with the city the renovations to the town’s historic movie theater. McGrath found herself getting more and more interested in day programming and community outreach opportunities through the theater, and research suggested “the most sustainable model for a historic theater was for it to be a non-profit.”

In the spring of 2014 McGrath founded the non-profit Friends of Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT). The group worked hard to fundraise for a reel-to-reel projector system to show 35 mm film as well as

pitching a bid to the city. According to McGrath, FOGT had two main objectives. First, it hoped to win the contract to operate the theater; second, it had components it felt were very important for the theater when it reopened regardless of who ran it and it wanted those ideas heard. FOGT won the bid to run the theater in January of 2015 and the renovated theater opened that May.

“We are the only theater in Prince George’s County with a reel-to-reel projector,” said McGrath, making it the only local theater which can show archival films. McGrath is thrilled

with how the first 10 months have gone. “We are really happy with the community engagement and support,” she said. The Old Greenbelt Theatre shows new releases, older films and children’s movies and finds opportunities – such as during the recent snowstorm – to offer free screenings to the public.

“It is an honor to be part of this cohort,” said McGrath of the Forty Under 40 awards, which were presented at a ceremony on February 4, “doctors, people who teach kids, people doing great things. It’s a cool group.”



For the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) the Spirit of Valentine’s Day is All Year Long. We thank the following donors for making a gift of community and supporting GCF in 2015!

Suzette Agans
Robert and Mary Ann Baker
James W. Barcus Jr.
Neal and Linda Barnett
Richard & Dorrie Bates
Margaret Bates
John & Judy Bell
Terry Benedik
Beltway Plaza Hardware
Nancy A. Boardman
Letty & Jerry Bonnell
Katrina Boverman
Emily Bronstein
Rafaele N. Brooks
Maggie Cahalan
Keith Chernikoff
Tehseen and Samir Chettri
Jim Cohen
Joanie Cohen-Mitchell
Greenbelt Federal Credit Union
Old Line Bank
Deborah Cooley
Judith "J" Davis
Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative
Jack & Dee Downs
Bob & Lyn Doyle
Ethel Dutky
Melissa & Jeremy Ehrenreich
Stan & Linda Edwards
Scott Fifield
William and Diane Fishburne
Martha Folk
Angella Foster
Kathleen Gallagher
Al Geiger
Jim Giese
Isabelle Gournay
Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repairs, Inc.

Pamela Gregory
Bob & Joy Greig
Melanie Griffin
Carol Griffith
Ellen Hanyok
Catherine Hardy
Susan Harris
New Deal Cafe
Austin & Sara Henry
Konrad Herling
Donna Hoffmeister
Lerner Corporation
Andrew Irving
Kathie Jarva
Elizabeth Jay
Kimberly Rush Lynch & Joe Lynch
Tom & Johanna Jones
Stuart & Elizabeth Jordan
Emmett Jordan
Velma Kahn
Lesley Kash
Cornelia & Patrick Kennedy
Jerriann King
Gary & Niki Kohn
Kathy Labukas
Sandy & David Lange
Willard and Carolyn Larkin
Sylvia Lewis
Leta & Darrell Mach
Murray and Carol Malveaux
McCarl Dental Group
Ryan & Andrea McClelland
In Memory of Kenneth Reigner
Michael & Leslie McLaughlin
Greig & Lisa Meyer
Maria Silvia Miller
Alice A Mitchell
David Moran
William Morrison
Lowell & Marjorie Owens

Kevin Parker
Gregor Passchier
Paradyne Management
Silke Pope
Edward Putens
Greenbelt Homes Inc.
Rick & Barbara Ransom
Thomas Renahan
Amy Hansen & Robert Candey
Beatrice Rodgers
Wanda Roger
Lois & Julio Rosado
Richard & Carol Roth
Ronnie Scotkin & Ed Hickey
Heather Scotten
Carol M. Shaw
Lauren & Matt Silberman
Steve & Lola Skolnik
Bob and Betty Sonneveldt
Dottie Spivacke
Chris Stark
Global Science & Technology, Inc.
Irma Tetzloff
Jeff Travis & Therese Kucera
Charlestowne Village
Condominium Association
Betty & Joe Timer
Michael Travis
Alan Turnbull
Gwen Vaccaro
Dawn, Jordan & Jared Washington
Elizabeth Wellborn
David Whiteman
Wayne & Virginia Williams
Mary Lou Williamson
Neil Williamson
Karen Yoho
Bob & Dea Zugby

We thank for following volunteers for helping to keep GCF moving forward as we assist non-profits, coops, schools and local organizations to maintain their programs and services to Greenbelt families, youth and seniors.

Dorothy Bates
Dawn Goodman-Washington
Caroline Hearn Fuchs
Marc “Kap” Kapastin
Eulalie Lucas
Eric O’Rear
Joe Wall

Garth Beall
Carolyn Lambright-Davis
Barbara Havekost
David & Sandy Lange
Aaron Marcavitch
Ronnie Scotkin
Yeri Zinn

Katrina Boverman
Jim Fisher
Glennyce Grindstaff
Kiana Lewis
Noah Parker
Heather Scotten

Around Greenbelt with Artist Dan Kennedy

by Elizabeth Barber



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

One of Dan Kennedy's large oil paintings of Greenbelt Homes hangs in the GHI offices.

Dan Kennedy is a long-time resident of Greenbelt. He takes Greenbelt seriously. For example, at the last Labor Day Festival, he won a prize in the adult art contest. Kennedy had just been released from the hospital. Although he was still feeling poorly, he went to the festival anyway, walking unassisted and without a cane from his home on Gardenway down to the festival stage.

The walk exhausted him. He had to rest for quite a while. But his action told everyone how much he appreciated the prize, how much he loved Greenbelt and how he felt about the people who worked to make the festival a success.

Kennedy came to Greenbelt in 1969. Since that time, he has been teaching painting at the community center, in his home and privately in Greenbelt residences.

Kennedy's childhood was not an easy one. He was taken from his parents and put into the Tressler Lutheran Children's Home, situated in Perry County, Pennsylvania. The school was surrounded by vast views of distant mountains. Open lands stretched out for miles, dotted with small villages, towns and farms.

Kennedy remembers the twenty other boys in the school and the house mother and father who, on free days, would take the boys on trips around the area. Even as a young child, Kennedy noticed the buildings where people lived and worked and these structures, sitting alone among the fields and mountains, spoke to him. He saw their beauty and nobility – simple buildings and places where people lived. "From early times, I tried to point out in my paintings places

that people take for granted: a lone building, a forgotten barn, a gas station. I understand these buildings. I see them as works of art. I can't explain it. I see paintings wherever I go."

Several of Kennedy's paintings are on view in our community. One of his beautiful paintings can be seen behind the receptionist's desk of the Community Center. Two of Kennedy's paintings are currently on display in the Greenbelt Center, at Generous Joe's cafe. If you go down a long, narrow hallway in the main GHI office building, you can see one of Kennedy's most ambitious works. It is a piece nearly 12 feet long and three and one half feet tall. Constructed in four sections, it is entitled "The Four Seasons." It depicts the four styles of houses in the Greenbelt community. No one will see this work of art unless business with GHI takes them down the dark hallway. I wonder why this amazing piece of art can't be exhibited in a space where everyone in the community could view it.

When I asked Kennedy to describe his painting technique he said that it was all about communication. He wants his paintings to truly resonate with people.

"When I paint, I am aware of a triad. A triad made up of myself, my art and the observer. When the painting is done and the observer says to me 'I recognize that place' or 'I would like to go and see that place,' then I feel that I have accomplished what I set out to do."

Kennedy starts each painting with a sketch of the place or object he has chosen to portray. For these sketches, he uses anything he can find – cardboard boxes cut in panels, sketch pads, or even children's school notebooks.

"I need a certain time of day to get the right shadows. I try to do all I can within a time frame of two hours. During this time I deal with the sunshine, shadows, clouds, rain, wind."

Kennedy has to manage his art work with his home life. He wants his grandchildren to have a good life and not experience what he did as a child. So Kennedy usually works a two-hour time frame as an artist. Then, the duties of his home life call him.

Back in 1957, Kennedy met a lovely young girl, named Thelma, who worked at a tiny bus station near the Lutheran school. Kennedy asked her to become his wife. She accepted and now the couple have a large family with

four children.

"Thelma has always been very supportive of my painting," Kennedy said quietly.

Early in his life, Kennedy met Eric Sloan.

"Sloan was working on a painting at the time," Dan said. "He was so completely engrossed in his work that he did not say a word. He was using a scrubbed motion, a fluid and fast interpretation of what he was seeing and then drew lines into the oil with an Eberhard #4 pencil."

Sloan always used a view finder when he started out on a painting.

"I took this tool as an absolute necessity," Kennedy explained. "I always carry several of my home-made view finders when I work. Looking through this valuable tool, I search and search for the exact view of what I want to paint. Then, when I find it, I paint it as I see it."

This sets him apart from most of the contemporary artists who often work with mental images and not with physical images seen by the eyes.

Kennedy feels that Eric Sloan's inspiration was equivalent to a university training. Long lectures, classes filled with information he would never use, would not be of interest to him. He didn't care to experience tests or final exams. That moment in Sloan's presence was all he needed to understand his way. Sloan's style was his style, his method of how to paint, what he truly wanted to paint. Sloan's

technique became Kennedy's example and inspiration.

Kennedy concludes by saying that he hopes he is walking in Sloan's footsteps. That is where he finds his heart.

Greenbelt is very fortunate to have Danny Kennedy as a resident.

Naturalist Leads Timberdoodle Hike

On Saturday, February 20 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., join a night hike to see the spectacular courtship display of the American woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle. This mysterious bird performs a spiraling flight display shortly after sunset. Then walk to a pond to search for beavers, owls and other nocturnal animals.

There is a small fee. This hike will be held in Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro. Call 301-627-6074 (TTY 301-699-2544) for more information.

UMD Holds Free Kreativty Night

The Kreativty Open Mic Night will be held on Friday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cafritz Foundation Theatre of The Clarice.

Join the Kreators of the Kreativty Diversity Troupe for a free open mic night, full of music, dance and spoken word. Show up and sign up to perform or just take a seat and enjoy the show.



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Dan Kennedy poses with his unfinished painting of Roosevelt Center at the 2015 Artomatic art show in Hyattsville.



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Greenbelt Scientist Harriette Phelps Samples Contaminants Using Clams

by Jacob Taylor

A new study has shed fresh light on some of the chemical contamination problems in the D.C. area waterways. The study was conducted by Harriette Phelps, a longtime Greenbelt resident and faculty member at the University of the District of Columbia, which sponsored her research.

Phelps set out years ago to test water quality using little clams called Corbicula; the clams were placed at testing sites and later checked for contaminants.

The clams filter the water they sit in, providing a reliable and cost-effective sampling of the pollutants in their water.

Phelps' latest study, through the use and study of these clams, found that numerous sites in the Anacostia watershed, of which Greenbelt is a part, have extremely high levels of chlordane, a banned pesticide.

"There are a few very bad pollutants that come in, they accumulate in fish, you can't get rid of them, they're not good for you, they're toxic and chlordane is one of the main ones," Phelps says.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, chlordane poisoning can cause a wide range of negative health effects such as blurred vision, headache, vomiting and diarrhea.

The main risk to humans comes from eating fish with high levels of chlordane contamination.

An estimated 75 percent of fish caught in the D.C. area are eventually eaten by humans, despite warnings about high levels of pesticide and chemical contamination in the fish.

In the Anacostia watershed, where Phelps' study was focused, much of the chlordane contamination lies in the sediment of the Anacostia River.

Basically, bottom feeders eat microorganisms lying in the sediment, the bottom feeders are eaten by fish, which are eaten by bigger fish and so on.

Each level of the food chain has a higher concentration of contamination than the one below it.

The best way to prevent contaminants from reaching the fish

humans eat would be to prevent them from entering the food chain at all.

The District plans to accomplish this by dredging the Anacostia River to clean out the contaminated sediment.

However, Phelps' work found four "legacy sources" of chlordane.

these sources rather than cleaning the sediment.

With the source controlled, she says, "you can cover the toxic sediment with good sediment—even a little layer would solve the problem."

Phelps says this process, if the sources were controlled, would occur naturally in a matter of years.

She recommends that the District work with Maryland to build detention ponds near the sources that would stem the flow of chlordane downstream from urban parts of Maryland.

Phelps notes that other rivers have seen their pesticide levels fall sharply when the sources of contamination were successfully controlled.

She also worries that the cost of dredging is simply too high.

A 2008 report determined that the cost of cleaning up Sligo Creek alone, a relatively small part of the Anacostia watershed in Takoma Park, would cost over \$40 million under the current clean-up plan.

Phelps says that her research offers a "targeted, less costly and less disruptive plan to control the downstream transfer of chlordane."

Jacob Taylor is graduate student studying journalism at University of Maryland and writing for the News Review.

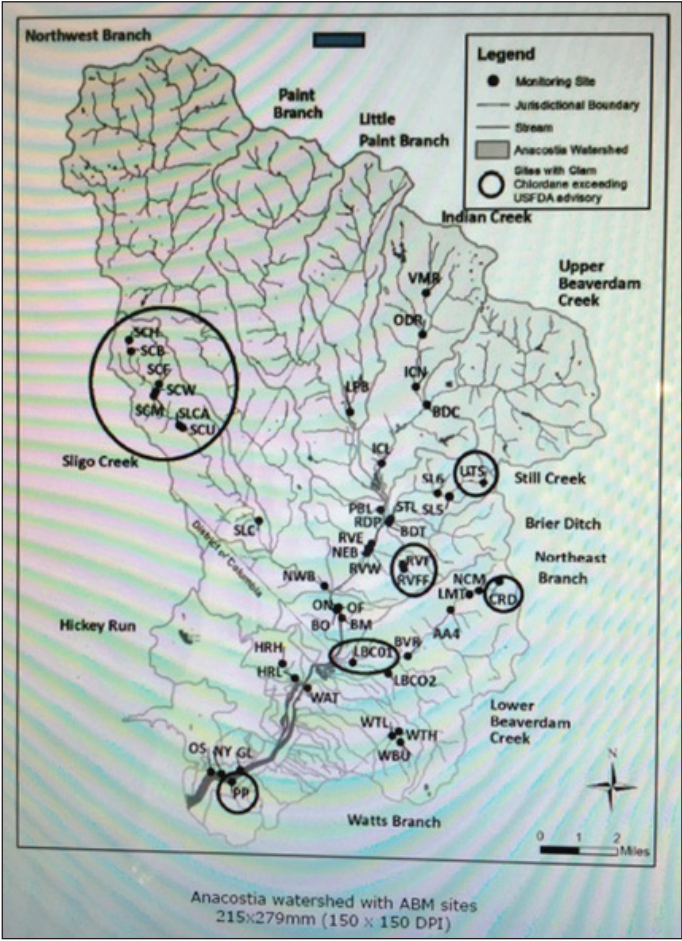


Harriette Phelps, UDC Biology Professor Emeritus

PHOTO COURTESY HARRIETTE PHELPS

According to the study, these sources will continue to bleed chlordane into the river even after the dredging is complete.

Phelps argues that efforts should be directed at controlling



The Anacostia watershed map shows test sites.

MAP COURTESY HARRIETTE PHELPS

Fifty Years Ago – News Review Topsy Turvy

There's a persuasive myth that everything done in our grandparents childhood was done well. Standards were higher. Streets were safer – and the News Review made fewer mistakes.

Just to prove it ain't necessarily so, take a look at this jewel culled from pressing the 50-years ago button on the Greenbelt News Review website (www.greenbeltnewsreview.com). This issue is priceless in many ways – for example, it includes a Pepco ad offering \$2.02 an hour while you train to be a lineman. Or you may note that Toastmasters wants 'Men'. More sobering, it carries a paid advertisement exhorting Greenbelters to take a stand against the War in Asia.

The 50 years ago button is a great hit (pun intended) but the archives collectively are even more fun – and there's a link on the top navigation bar. Check out your birthday to see what was happening on that uniquely important day. Print out the front page as a birthday card for a friend. All the online issues are available in the Archives link, arranged by decade (about 18 months are missing altogether). The quality varies as we believe many of these files were made from the county library's microfiche of the paper – some are good enough to be searchable and others are not. We're hoping to make it a priority to improve the scan quality and fill in gaps as the original papers are getting fragile and may not be long for this life.

of Vietnam single file will be allowed for questions from the audience. The public is invited.

MISSING FAMILY?
Do you know a family by the name of R. E. & L. D. Thomas, formerly of 11A Parkway? The Internal Revenue Service (Baltimore) would like to send them a refund check. If you know the family please tell them to write to the District Director of Internal Revenue, Code 2010, 707 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Car Inspection in Greenbelt
Beginning this month, all used cars having their title transferred in MD, including those brought in from other states, are required to pass inspection by a garage licensed for this job. Furthermore, police officers spotting a defective car are authorized to issue a repair order which obliges its owner, after correcting the defect, to bring it for inspection.

JCC Talk on Religious Art
Rabbi Eugene Lipman will be the guest speaker at the Lecture-Discussion series on Monday, Jan. 31, in the Jewish Community Center at 8:30 p.m. His topic is "The Evolution of Jewish Religious Arts," an illustrated lecture on the artistic evolution of religious craftsmanship. Call 368-9966.

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V.A. Income Questionnaires
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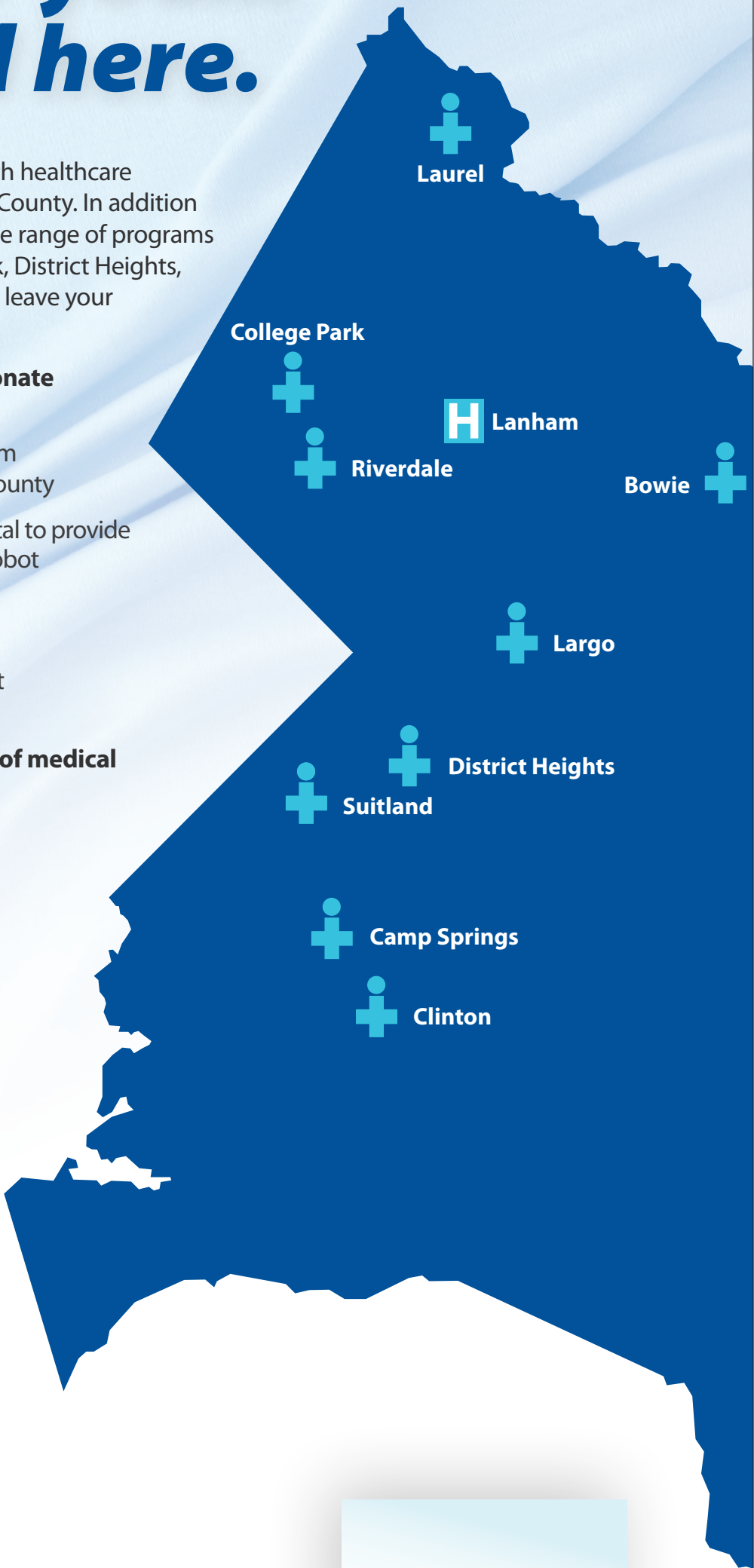
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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery
February 4, 4:05 a.m., 7600 block Greenbelt Road. Three men entered CVS and walked to the pharmacy, where one of them brandished a handgun and demanded money and narcotics. Another man entered the pharmacy area and took a quantity of prescription narcotics. All three men then fled in a vehicle described as an older model silver passenger car bearing D.C. tags. The men are described as black, two 5'10" tall, 130 pounds, and the third man 5'5", 130 pounds.

Assault
February 7, 6:30 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A woman near Springhill Lane and Breeze-wood Court heard someone tell another person to empty their pockets and saw a man described as Latino, with long hair, wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans, running from the area. She then saw a man described as being black, 5'10" tall, 200 pounds, wearing a black hooded sweat-shirt, blue jeans and black sneakers, fire a single shot from a handgun at the man who was running away. Another man, also black, 6' tall, 140 pounds, wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans, stood nearby. Both men then fled on foot. The Latino man was not located and it is unknown if he was struck by a bullet.

Arrest
February 4, 11:56 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. A 38-year-old resident was arrested and charged with attempted home invasion, stalking and trespass after he allegedly attempted to forcibly enter the residence of a person he knew. He was trans-

ported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Burglary
February 4, 10:45 a.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. A laptop and a notebook-type computer were removed after entry was made into an unlocked residence.

Theft
February 5, 8 a.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. Two extension cords powering dehumidifiers were taken and a third cord was cut.

February 6, 9:30 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended winter coat was taken from a shopping cart inside Beltway Plaza.

February 9, 6:20 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A wallet that was accidentally dropped in a parking lot was taken.

Vandalism
February 7, 11:15 p.m., 7200 Hanover Drive. A television inside a hotel room at the Holiday Inn was vandalized.

Vehicle Crime
A cream color 2-door Chrysler 300 with Md. tags 7AZ2091 was stolen from the 400 block Ridge Road on February 4.

A 2009 Toyota Camry reported stolen January 7 from the 7500 block Greenbelt Road was recovered February 4 by Prince George's County police near Eastern Avenue and Oneida Street in Langley Park.

An expiration sticker was taken from a vehicle tag in the 100 block Westway. N.Y. tags GYU2977 were taken from a vehicle in the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. A front tag was taken from a vehicle in the 6000 block Greenbelt Road.

Good News Outweighs the Bad In FY16 Mid-Year Assessment

by Diane Oberg

At its February 10 worksession, City Manager Michael McLaughlin presented his mid-year assessment of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget to the Greenbelt City Council. McLaughlin said that there was good news and bad news in terms of budget but that overall, there was more good than bad. McLaughlin also gave council a sneak peek at revenue projections for the next fiscal year, where the bad news is that the city no longer expects a significant upward tick in property tax revenue.

Current Year
For FY16, which runs from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, real estate revenue is running below projections, though partial year assessments might cut the shortfall somewhat. Although real estate abatements, nearly all related to commercial office buildings, are somewhat lower than budgeted, City Treasurer Jeffrey Williams, in his written report, said he could not guarantee that they would remain low.

Income tax revenues, Williams wrote, are likely to meet or exceed the adopted budget. Red light camera revenue is up slightly but that does not mean that it will meet the estimates in the budget. Lead-footed drivers in Greenbelt may finally be getting the message (or at least learning the camera locations) as November and December revenues were 10 percent below prior monthly averages.

Williams summarized that total General Fund revenues are on track to end the fiscal year near the levels in the adopted budget.

Expenditures
Midyear expenditures are 55.8 percent of the adopted budget compared to 56.0 percent last year and 58.3 percent historically at the same point in time. Salaries and benefits are more than two percent lower than both last fiscal year and historic averages, according to Williams' report.

The main drivers of the lower than expected costs are unfilled vacancies in the Police Department (five officers), Public Works

(administrative staff) and the city manager's office.

Like other motorists, the city is benefiting from lower than projected fuel costs, with spending \$36,000 lower than the same time last year. Williams projects that fuel costs will end the year about \$100,000 below budget.

Based upon review to date, Williams expects that expenditures will be below the adopted budget, although he cautioned that further analysis is needed. McLaughlin reiterated that the city can fund the purchase of 10-A Crescent to expand the museum from the General Fund balance, without raising taxes or taking on debt.

Concerns
One concern is whether Greenbelt will receive the \$80,000 county grant it has received since at least 2013 to support School Resource Officers. But McLaughlin felt that the city would be on solid financial ground even if that funding were lost.

McLaughlin will look into the projected electricity costs, which are higher than budgeted. Like Mayor Emmett Jordan, he expected them to fall given the city's investments in energy efficiency.

Future
The initial revenue estimates for Fiscal Year 2017 (starting June 1) show revenues up 1.1 percent over the FY16 adopted budget. Revenue from taxes and fines and forfeitures are projected to increase by 1.5 and 17.6 percent, respectively. Decreases are projected in revenues from licenses and permits (-1.4 percent), revenues from other agencies (-3.1 percent) and service charges (-1.6 percent).

McLaughlin did not present expenditure estimates for FY17, saying the city was still conducting the department by department review needed to develop reasonable estimates.

Property Taxes
The entire city is assessed during the same period, locking in property tax rates for a three-year period. The city has now

received preliminary information on the 2017-2019 assessments. McLaughlin declared himself disappointed in the numbers. The city manager and council had hoped that the new assessments going into effect for the next fiscal year would give the city a significant "bump" towards returning to pre-crash property tax levels, but that is not what the assessment data indicates.

State assessment data is showing a 4.3 percent increase in assessed value of residential property, including properties that did not exist last year and a 5.8 percent decrease in commercial property values, resulting in a 2.8 percent increase in total real estate property values.

McLaughlin noted that the assessed values of apartments are showing a 4.6 percent decrease. He questioned this number, saying it does not make sense. With occupancy rates above 90 percent, including in Franklin Park, he had expected an increase. This is another area he will be checking on.

The city is also anticipating a significant increase in its health insurance costs due to a combination of increases across the industry and the city's claim history.

Using Old Books To Create Art

The College Park Arts Exchange hosts Artful Books on Tuesday, February 23 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Old Parish House. Join this monthly club to explore the genre of altered books. Obsolete books are used as the base for various art techniques including painting, sculpting and collage. The club will be learning together and sharing ideas and materials but there will not be an instructor. Bring an old book and get creative. There is a small materials fee.



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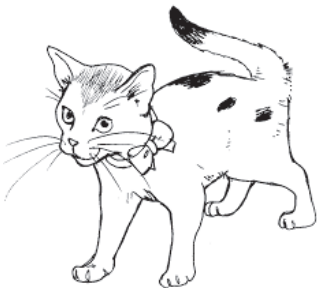


The Greenbelt Grasshopper

Have a joke, riddle or work of art you want to share?
Email sfitts7@gmail.com (Must be between the ages of 2 to 16).

Joke of the Week

Why was 6 afraid of 7?
Because 7 8 9!



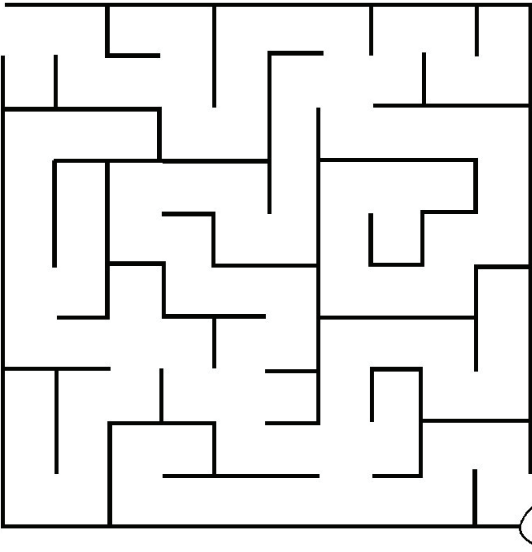
Trivia Time:

Some famous folks that were born in Maryland are Mary Suratt, Babe Ruth, Nora Roberts, Michael Phelps, Dominique Dawes and Ira Glass. Ask a grown-up who they are!

This Week's Activity:

Penguin's Home

Help your penguin friend find his home.



COUNCIL continued from page 1

ment not to take the loan at the available interest rate. The ordinance authorizing the appropriation of the money from the city’s General Fund was introduced for first reading and will return for adoption at the February 22 meeting.

Red Light Contract

From the beginning of its red light camera program in 2002, Greenbelt has been one of a number of municipalities that partner with Howard County to manage the operation of the program. The city benefits from Howard County’s expertise, as well as the opportunity for volume purchasing. The city’s police department has been very satisfied with the partnership.

Howard County recently accepted proposals to renew its contract with a vendor to run the program and selected the same vendor that has held the contract since 2010: American Traffic Solutions of Mesa, Ariz. While the cost of the program will increase somewhat, these are the first increases from the vendor since 2008 and the first from Howard County since 2004. Overall the increases average less than two percent per year. The city council voted 6-1 to authorize the mayor to sign the agreement with the vendor and a Memorandum of Understanding with Howard County to continue the program. Councilmember Rodney Roberts voted against the motion because he thought the prices should not be raised and that “everyone is making too much money” from the program.

Dredging Permits

As recounted in greater detail in the February 4 issue of this paper, the city council met in worksession on February 1 with consultants working on behalf of Prince George’s County’s Clean Water Partnership Program to discuss a proposal from the county to dredge and maintain the two existing forebays at Greenbelt Lake. The dredging of the forebays is overdue, but an unfunded capital project of the city. This shared project would benefit both the city and the county. It would assist the county in meeting its Environmental Protection Agency pollutant reduction goals. At the same time, it would improve the overall quality of the water in Greenbelt Lake and would be fully funded at county expense through its stormwater fees.

Although it was understood at the earlier worksession that additional planning was needed to address potential environmental impacts at the lake and its wildlife, the consultants asked council to give conditional approval to the wetland permit application submission to the Maryland Department of the Environment and the sediment erosion control plans to the county Soil Conservation District. Although council has not authorized the project itself, it has conditionally approved the permit requests in order for the regulatory agencies to begin to identify the environmental and wildlife concerns.

Assistant Director of Planning Terri Hruby told council that she had been in contact with the Department of Natural Resources to have ecologists and wildlife experts walk the areas involved with staff and should have their reports in before council refers the project to GreenACES and the Park and Recreation Advisory

Board for their review.

Jordan said he also wants to inform city residents and to be sure any possible negative impacts on nearby residents are identified and dealt with in advance.

Council voted unanimously to approve the submission of the necessary documents conditionally as a way to get further information and analysis regarding what needs to be done and the possible impacts.

Mission BBQ

The city has received notification of an application for a Class B, Beer, Wine and Liquor License for the Mission BBQ now located at Beltway Plaza in the former location of Atlanta Bread. Doug Plain, operating partner for the Greenbelt restaurant, appeared before council. It is the practice of council to either oppose or take no position on applications to serve alcoholic beverages. According to Plain, liquor is not served in Mission BBQ restaurants and beer represents about one percent of their sales, but they consider the availability of beer to be part of the overall barbecue experience. Council voted unanimously to take no position on the application and welcomed Mission BBQ as a positive addition to the city.

State Legislation

Review of legislation pending in the Maryland General Assembly continued this week with two statewide bills and two local bills.

In 2013, a law was adopted that prevents counties and municipalities from adopting or enforcing laws or regulations that either interfere with or increase the cost of compliance with state vegetation management standards. The city opposed that law. A bill introduced in the House of Delegates this year titled “Electric Companies – Vegetation Management” (HB 435) would amend that law to allow local governments to adopt and enforce their own laws and regulations.

The amended bill would require the local government and the electric utility to reach agreement within a year or the utility could go ahead and perform the work. Roberts called the bill “a joke” in terms of benefit to local government since all the utility company needs to do is stonewall for a year. There is no incentive for the company to negotiate and no authority for the jurisdiction to enforce its law. Council voted unanimously to support the bill with the condition that the time limit for reaching agreement be eliminated.

A bill titled “Redeemable Container and Litter Reduction Program” (SB 367) would establish a beverage container deposit program. Individual cans and bottles would carry a five-cent deposit and could be redeemed for the deposit at specified redemption centers. The city had supported similar bills for the last several years. This bill limits to a period of three years the receipt by counties and municipalities of certain designated revenues. The city council unanimously supported this bill with the condition that there be no time limit on the revenues designated for return to counties and municipalities.

“County Prohibition on Disposable Bags” (PG 418) would enable Prince George’s County to prohibit the use of disposable

plastic and paper bags, with the exception of certain uses (bulk items, flowers, newspapers, etc.). Councilmembers all supported the bill.

A bill called “Extraordinary Development District” would enable Prince George’s County to enable such a district, which must comprise at least 50 acres, on all or part of which a federal law enforcement agency will be located. The legislation would apply to either the Greenbelt or Landover sites being considered for the new FBI headquarters.

In an Extraordinary Development District, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) would be allowed to enter into an agreement pledging that its property taxes levied on the tax increment in that district would be paid into a special fund for the district. If the bill passes and if the county and M-NCPPC agree, M-NCPPC taxes could be used as part of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) arrangement to finance needed improvements to the site.

Six councilmembers supported the bill on the condition that any municipality located within the district be included in the development of the agreement. Roberts voted against the bill on the premise that TIFs ultimately hurt taxpayers because of loss of property tax revenue.

Lecture Features South African Orchids

On Friday, February 26 from noon to 1 p.m. the U.S. Botanic Garden will be the site of a free lecture, The World Orchid Conference and the Spectacular Orchids of South Africa, by Tom Mirenda, orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution.

Last September Mirenda attended the World Orchid Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. While at the conference, he presented a conservation initiative and had the opportunity to travel within the country. Join Mirenda as he speaks about the conference, visiting local orchid experts and seeing the amazing indigenous flora and fauna that grow in that part of the world.

This is a free event, but pre-registration is required. Visit usb.gov to register.



Free Colonoscopies At Doctors Hospital

Colorectal cancer, though often preventable and curable, is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Maryland. As a preventative measure, Doctors Community Hospital and Prince George’s County’s Health Department have partnered to provide free colonoscopies.

Community members may qualify for free colonoscopies if they are county residents aged 50 or older, or ages 50 and younger with a family history of colorectal cancer. Patients must meet income eligibility guidelines.

All colonoscopies are performed by experienced gastroenterologists at Doctors Community Hospital. To learn more or to register, call 240-542-3380 or 301-883-3526.

ZONING continued from page 1

role in the appeals process. That system also provides what she called a “citizen-friendly” process for individuals to go to the district council and appeal matters at no cost, a recourse that would be eliminated if the district council were no longer an appellate body.

A memo dated January 5 from Assistant Planning Director Terri Hruby to the city manager addressed staff concerns with the bill. In addition to the specific reversal on whether the district council or the planning board has “original jurisdiction” (the authority to review cases first), Hruby enumerated other concerns:

(1) Since the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is currently in the middle of rewriting the county zoning ordinance, legislation to change the review process should be held until the rewrite is complete. (2) Expanding the role of elected officials in the review process now will undermine several years of effort by both the county and M-NCPPC to streamline the plan and permit process and make it predictable. (3) Subordinating the planning board to the district council diminishes the function of the board without explaining what its role will be. (4) No information is provided on how the district council would implement its newly added jurisdiction over subdivision plans.

At the February 8 city council meeting, Turner presented a very different point of view. According to him, the proposed bill does not represent a change in process; rather, it would return the process and the practice to those that have been followed in the county for the last 50 years. From the perspective of the county council, it would restore what had always been intended but apparently had not been properly legislated.

Turner believes the intention of the court in the Zimmer case was not to make a change in the relative authorities of the council and the planning board but rather to clarify the intended law via new legislation in the General Assembly.

Turner added that the higher standard imposed by the court decision on the district council’s ability to overturn a decision of the planning board would tie the council’s hands in responding to appeals. Planning board decisions could be reversed only in

cases where the board’s actions were thought to be illegal, against substantive evidence or arbitrary and capricious.

Aside from the legal intent as such, Turner opined that it is elected officials, not appointed administrators, who should do the ultimate decision-making. He argued that there was a benefit to a municipality in being able to come to its county council representative to serve as an advocate in a planning board decision the city was not happy with.

Councilmember Judith Davis took issue with this philosophy, saying that while the city could expect its own council representative to be supportive, Greenbelt had frequently not received a good response on issues from the rest of the county council. Furthermore, in recent years the city has had a good working relationship with the planning board. Davis added, “I don’t think there would be any advantage to us in supporting this bill. So I’m in a quandary about what to do.” She added that part of the problem was that the municipalities have been left out of the conversation.

Asked if she wished to respond, Craze indirectly questioned whether there was really a problem with the restricted basis on which the district council could overturn a planning board decision. She noted that the City of Greenbelt had never appealed to the county to contest a planning board decision with which it disagreed. Rather, Greenbelt has appealed only on the basis of a point of law.

Craze added that the proposed bill would change the law to coincide with a practice. She said the finding in the Zimmer case said the 50-year practice in Prince George’s County is not what is in the law.

Asked by Jordan what the impact of the city’s supporting, opposing or taking no position on the bill would be, Turner replied: “I would love to have the support of the City of Greenbelt, but if you can’t support the bill, ‘no position’ is a noble middle ground.”

Davis moved that the city council agree to take no position on bill PG/MC 111 and to respectfully request that municipalities be included in further discussions of the issues involved. That motion carried 6 to 1, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposing.



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STATION continued from page 1

to the city’s concerns about the lack of open space in the previous plan. However, the new plan incorporates two additional units beyond what was reviewed in November.

In addition, Woodlawn was able to obtain approval to move the sound barrier closer to the railroad tracks. The new plan also eliminates the dead end alleys that had raised city concerns about fire trucks and other traffic having to back out to exit, although their solution raised additional concerns.

Staff Recommendations

The city’s planning staff has reviewed the revised plan and recommended approval subject to 45 conditions. Ten of these related to specific landscaping plants to be used and were accepted by the developer. Of the remaining 35 conditions, the developer had accepted 21 prior to the meeting.

In general, however, staff noted its concern that the townhome units are too densely packed in certain areas of the plan. The additional two units also decrease the total amount of green space.

Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze told council that everything has a tradeoff. When the city pressed for more open space it did not get more open space in the new plan. Instead the new plan simply rearranges the open space from the previous plan and, with the additional two units, somewhat reduces total open space.

Pedestrian Overpass

The issue that by far most concerned the councilmembers was the proposed pedestrian overpass that is to connect Phase 3 with North College Park near that city’s Public Works yard. The requirement was introduced by the county during the original Conceptual Site Plan, when Phase 3 was expected to consist of mixed retail and residential uses. Based on market conditions, the developer has eliminated most retail development on the site, with just one lot remaining that may or may not be neighborhood retail. However, the overpass requirement stands and the developer had to indicate the site for the overpass in the DSP. This pleased neither the developer nor the city.

The developer had concerns about designing around an overpass that may not be funded, has not been designed or engineered and for which responsibility for maintenance has not been determined. Project Attorney Norman Rivera also expressed concern about how they were to inform potential buyers about the overpass and its potential impact upon their property.

The city did not believe the overpass location met the conditions of the District Council’s resolution. (The District Council is the County Council when it is acting upon zoning issues.) In addition, staff had safety issues and technical concerns.

Council was united in its opposition to the overpass. In the only vote it took on the plan, it unanimously called for the elimination of the requirement. Among reasons cited were that the overpass was no longer needed to support retail uses with the elimination of significant retail from the plan and that the existing underpass to the Metro station better facilitates bicycle and pedestrian transit between Greenbelt and College Park. The

original overpass users would essentially enter Greenbelt by way of the yards of Phase 3 residents.

Lot Size

City staff questioned whether the lot sizes were consistent with county law and the site’s zoning. Normally, developments in Mixed Use – Transit Oriented (M-X-T) zones have a minimum lot size of 1,800 square feet. City Planner Jessica Bellah’s report states that South Core Phases 1 and 2 were granted waivers permitting a minimum lot size of 1,240 square feet. The Phase 3 plan shows lot sizes ranging from 992 to 2,961 square feet. Staff called for holding Phase 3 to the same requirements as Phases 1 and 2. Craze said that Phase 3 proposes roughly 14 units per acre. She compared that to the city’s densest development, Franklin Park, with a density of 17 units per acre and Greenbriar with roughly 12 units per acre. Phase 1 of Greenbelt Station has a density of 8.5 to 9 units per acres.

Rivera disagreed. He argued that there is no minimum lot size for Greenbelt Station and urged council to let Park and Planning decide this issue.

Some councilmembers appeared briefly willing to go with that suggestion until Craze pointed out that by approving the site plan council would be implicitly approving the lot sizes. Several councilmembers were still troubled by the small lot size and resulting high density. Councilmember Konrad Herling suggested that the smaller lot sizes may be needed to create more affordable housing on the site. Rivera said that to increase lot sizes Woodlawn would have to reduce open space and noted that the smaller lot sizes result from the introduction of the less expensive 14-foot-wide units. Rivera noted that it is less than the density the city had agreed to in the development contract and urged council to let the county decide.

Noise Barrier

The materials to be used for the noise barrier are another unresolved issue. The developer is proposing a 14-foot-high wood noise barrier between the site and the railroad tracks. This wall will buffer the west and north sides of the property. Woodlawn has already accommodated the city’s requirement that the barrier be at least 15 feet from all buildings and 10 feet from all property lines. City staff is recommending that council require that the wall be made of masonry materials they say would be more durable.

Plywall® was chosen based upon cost, maintenance and effectiveness, Rivera told council, and comes with a 30-year warranty. It has a long-term maintenance cost one-fifth that of a masonry wall and has proven durable, he said. Bellah was not convinced. She said that sound walls are not effective if there are any missing boards or parts of boards. She also raised concerns about the “fairly monotonous”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NVHOMES

165 townhouse units are planned for Greenbelt Station

design. Councilmember Edward Putens raised concerns based upon his experience in various homeowners associations that had to replace wooden noise barriers multiple times.

Rear Elevations

In order to eliminate the dead-end alley issue the city objected to in the last plan, Woodlawn turned the units closest to the noise barrier sideways so that the sides of the units, not the backs, face the wall. As a result, the backs of the units are now more visible so staff called for adding brick to the backs of the sideways units. Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that the development has been billed as luxury townhomes and challenged the idea that anything with vinyl siding could be considered luxury.

Rivera disagreed. He said this would add a cost they could not recoup. Brick on the front of a house adds value, he claimed, brick on the back does not. Councilmember Leta Mach questioned how many people would be walking down the alleys to see the backs of these units, saying she did not really see the need for the recommended change. In the end, when Mayor Emmett Jordan said this condition was not a priority, none of his colleagues disagreed.

Other Issues

The city and developer have not yet reached a resolution on proposed conditions for the width of planting strips on the side of “Road A” and the city’s request for a buffer, such as a decorative fence, to delineate the front yards of the homes along Greenbelt Station Parkway. The major issue here is the Public Utility Easements that require easy access to those yards, potentially by heavy equipment.

The final unresolved issue is the city’s proposed condition that the number of units be reduced by two to restore the amount of green space to that in earlier submissions. Rivera said they would have to agree to disagree on that one.

Resolutions

Several issues were resolved at the meeting.

Retail-Park parcel: One lot (166) is designated as either retail or parkland to be dedicated to the city. Woodlawn agreed that if it is retail, the Homeowners Association (HOA) will own and maintain the property and if it is park land it will not be part of the HOA.

Bonding: Staff had recommended requiring the developer

to post bonds to ensure the development of the bicycle-pedestrian trail and for the cost of constructing the park if lot 166 is not developed for retail. Rivera argued that this was a needless expense for the company as the requirements are already established in the development agreement. Craze countered that it is not uncommon to require a bond to secure the performance of a required improvement, particularly one of the terminating commitments. In the end, council seemed willing to accept a statement for the record affirming the commitment. Rivera made that commitment.

Call for Veteran Artists For Upcoming Exhibit

Veteran artists are invited to participate in the upcoming exhibit The Art of Freedom: War, Peace and Everything in Between at the Brentwood Arts Exchange. Veterans and the military community should use the creative process to promote healing and provide insight into understanding the transition from military to civilian life. The call is open to all veterans and active duty members of all branches of service who reside or are deployed in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. The application deadline is February 27.

Curators for the exhibition will select artworks for inclusion based on artistic merit, relevance to the exhibition theme and suitability for display in the exhibition space. The Sports and Learning Center Gallery is a public space and welcomes a large number of visitors of all ages.

For additional information, contact Phil Davis, Director, Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722, call 301-277-2863 or email phil.davis@pgparks.com.

Boxer Crossed to Fight At Convention Center

Boxer Sam Crossed, Greenbelter, turned professional this past year. Known as the Vanilla Gorilla, Crossed will be fighting at the DC Convention Center Saturday night, February 27. Crossed attended St. Hugh’s School and graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA CUMMINGS

A crowd of runners braved the cold on Sunday, February 14, to run a marathon. They started the race on Northway, and the finish line was at the end of Stream Valley Park, across from St. Hugh’s school. This was the DC Road Runners’ annual George Washington Birthday Marathon.

Send us your photos!

The News Review would like to print more photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer, and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

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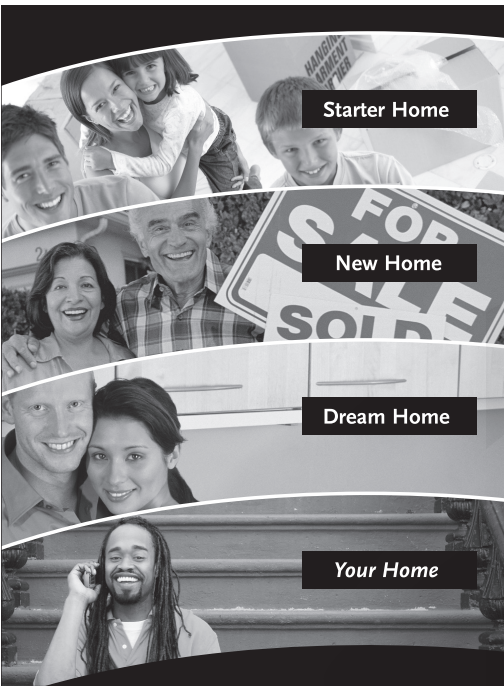
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PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

A water main break caused a waterfall into Greenbelt Lake on Wednesday, February 17. A city crew was on the scene by 9 a.m

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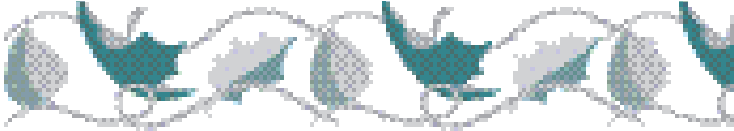
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Catching Greenbelt’s Piece Of Gravitational Wave

by Amy S. Hansen

Neil Gehrels had a secret last year. He knew that he and his colleagues in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory (LIGO) had detected a gravitational wave. He knew, but he couldn’t tell.

Gehrels, a former Greenbelter and current resident of Berwyn Heights, works at Goddard Space Flight Center. He is the Chief of the Astroparticle Physics Laboratory where they look at explosions, such as gamma ray bursts. He is also one of three people at Goddard who works on the landmark gravitational wave detection with LIGO. The international team of over 1,000 physicists found the wave in September, but only announced it — after thorough vetting — on February 11.

“It was really hard not to tell,” said Gehrels. He said he did warn his bosses and his wife. But mostly he went about his business. He shopped at the Co-op grocery, ate at the New Deal Café and kept mum. It was a hard four months because for physicists, this is the discovery of the year and probably of the decade.

Gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein a hundred years ago as an extension of his general theory of relativity. Put simply, his theory says that space is like a piece of fabric. When a planet moves in it, the fabric ripples. When a bigger object moves, the ripples are bigger. If something huge explodes, there should be waves.

Last September, scientists working with LIGO detected two

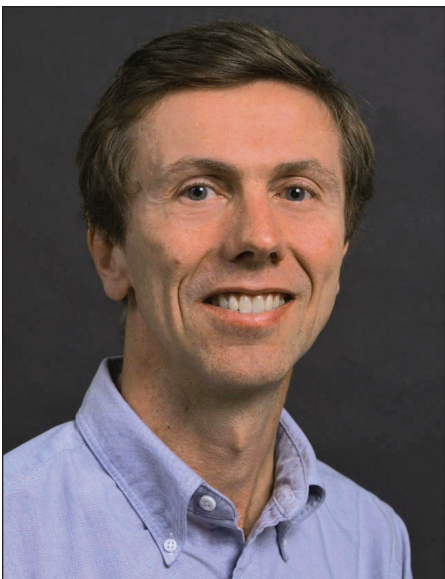


PHOTO COURTESY NEIL GEHRELS

Neil Gehrels

giant black holes colliding over a billion light years away. This should have meant the physicists had their wave at last.

Except none of the team believed it.

“The computer system is set up with blind injections,” Gehrels explained, which is sort of like a system fire drill. The computer inserts random signals so that physicists learn to respond and to filter the noise.

Only this wasn’t a drill.

“When I learned it wasn’t an injection, it just knocked my socks off.”

After months of checking and rechecking, physicists confirmed the event. And on February 11, they held a press conference discussing the discovery. The validation of Einstein’s theorized gravitational waves made headlines and newscasts all over the world.

Gehrels says the next step is to find these waves using different instruments. But for the moment, he and his colleagues are happy to just ride the wave.



PHOTO COURTESY NEIL GEHRELS

Neil Gehrels stands next to the Swift satellite, a NASA space science mission with participation from Italy and the UK. Swift launched in 2004 with the primary goal of observing gamma ray bursts, some of the biggest explosions in the universe. Gehrels, who leads the Swift science team as the Principal Investigator, said discoveries from LIGO will dovetail with Swift’s mission by providing suggestions for where to aim the satellite, with the goal of possibly recording the events simultaneously.

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WARNING

Read This Before Filing Your TAX RETURN!

Many People Will Miss Out On BIGGER REFUNDS
This Year Just Because They Weren’t Sure Which Forms
To Use and Might Benefit From a Second Opinion!

(Don’t Let Uncle Sam Keep Your Hard Earned Money This Tax Season!)

Congress has passed some very confusing tax laws! To protect yourself from filing an “incorrect” tax return this year and missing out on a ton of cash that is supposed to be YOURS, you better call a tax professional to help you get ALL the money you deserve back from the IRS!

Hi, my name is Bob Newland and I have been a tax professional in this area for 31 years. I have an office on Route 1 near Wendy’s, and an experienced “hand picked” staff. Robert C. Newland & Associates will not only prepare your tax return, we will help you keep the highest amount of money legally possible, **AND**, if we prepare your return, **We Will Electronically File Your Tax Return with the IRS AND the State of Maryland for FREE!**

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No other tax firm (that I know of) makes such a strong claim, but we believe that choosing Robert C. Newland & Associates to prepare your taxes should be a “risk free no brainer.” But just in case you are still not sure, I am also throwing in a Special Bonus Offer of a **\$40 discount for the first 50 new clients who respond to this message before February 28, 2016.** It’s ourway of saying, “Thanks for Trusting Us To Be Your Tax Professional!”

HURRY!! AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

The bad guys may have your personal information from hacked retail store accounts, colleges and the government entities. File your tax return before the bad guys file a bogus return and get away with stealing your identity. Let the bad guys have their bogus return bounce because you got your legitimate return to IRS before they did. If you are a procrastinator or slow to get around to it, get help from someone who prepares tax returns full time and works long hours as needed to get the job done.

2015 AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) CHALLENGE FOR SELF-FILERS

Even if you are a capable self-filer, you may want to consider seeking our help this year. IRS has Staff Action responsibility for the entire U.S. GOVERNMENT collection portion of fees relative to the ACA implementation, including taxpayer reporting, tax assessment, and tax collection procedures In order to fulfill their responsibility, IRS depends on information made available to them from three sources.

1. The market place, i.e. individual insurance companies provide information to IRS in a regimented format about your health care insurance.
2. The insurance exchanges.
3. Completed forms coming to IRS from individual taxpayers such as yourself as part of the annual tax season reporting activities.

If the information going to the IRS on your health care from the three sources does not reconcile, you and as many as half the tax return filers, even those assisted by paid preparers, may get correspondence from the IRS. This is partially because of errors in reporting by the market place or insurance exchanges and the trial-run basis of the IRS forms that taxpayers are completing. In addition, your tax information may bounce back and forth between IRS and the state to get further exchange information or other clarification. Consequently, in a large majority of tax filings, it may be mission impossible to get all the information to reconcile due to the fickle finger of fate. Please consider, though, that someone who prepares tax returns full-time may be slightly better able to avoid correspondence-causing presentations to the IRS. Never the less, responding to correspondence can be time consuming and it could be handled for you by your paid tax preparer.

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